

# THE ANACONDA COMPANY

P. O. BOX 638, GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020

NEW MEXICO OPERATIONS

A. J. FITCH  
MANAGER



November 10, 1972

RECEIVED

U. S. Geological Survey  
P. O. Box 829  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

NOV 13 1972

Attention: P. B. Mudgett

U. S. Geological Survey  
Carlsbad, N. M.

Gentlemen:

In conformity with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30 - Mineral Resources, Geological Survey, Part 231.10 - Operating Plans, we are herewith submitting pertinent information relative to a mining plan which involves a certain area located within Sections 3 and 2, T. 10 N., R. 5 W. and within the boundaries of our current mining lease with the Pueblo of Laguna.

## Description of Operation

Plans call for a small underground operation in order to extract an isolated ore body situated approximately 3000 feet in a southwesterly direction from the present ore-loading, crusher location.

Estimates indicate 37,741 ore tons at an average grade of 0.475% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> and 23,007 tons of waste will be extracted.

Entry will be made by adit at the main ore horizon elevation with approximately 975 feet of waste work being involved before ore zones are expected to be encountered.

Waste material will be deposited from the entry location for a distance of about 250 feet to northeast and then extended along the contour of the side hill in southeasterly-northwesterly directions for a total length of 325 feet, resulting in a yard area of some 73,125 sq. ft. Average dump thickness is calculated at 8 feet with the crest height being 15 feet.

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Plant structures will be of temporary nature and will be composed of the following:

- 1) Small office and supply building.
- 2) Change house with bathing and toilet facilities.
- 3) Compressor shed.
- 4) Small emergency repair building.

All of these buildings will be constructed with galvanized iron roofs and sidings and will be removed upon completion of the project.

Power lines will be brought in from the sub-station some 700 feet to the southeast of the adit site and will also be removed at the appropriate time.

A minimum of road building will be necessary for the operation. Access will be obtained by construction of a road along the hillside from the existing dirt road, which skirts the mine staff housing area, to the adit site, a distance of some 500 feet. The present road will be widened sufficiently to accommodate ore truck haulage from the underground operation to the crusher and other railroad car loading facilities.

#### Mining Methods

With the exception of two minor areas, the majority of the ore and waste extraction is expected to be accomplished by Alpine Continuous Miner, underground front loader and underground, pneumatic-tired haulage trucks. Material will be transported to the yard, segregated into grade-category stockpiles and will eventually be loaded into trucks for haulage to the crusher. Longwall stoping with the Alpine Miner will be employed for the most part, although some drilling and blasting with front loader and slusher loading no doubt will be employed as mining areas are developed and expanded to the north and south. Ground support will be by roof-bolting supplemented with steel sets and/or pillars where necessary.

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Two ore blocks, viz: 8639 and 9165, will be mined by sub-level stoping which will necessitate drilling, blasting and slushing. Ground support in these areas will be by roof-bolting, cribbing and/or pillars.

Three shafts, 48 in. diameter are to be drilled in strategic places to provide ample ventilation and to serve as escapeways in compliance with existing underground standards and laws.

The operation is planned for two shifts per day, 5 days a week. Production is estimated to be 160 tons per day with a labor force of 6 men, including a supervisor, per shift. Ore extraction is expected to be close to 100% of the calculated reserves. Adit cutting is scheduled to commence during February, 1973 and the project should be completed by June or July, 1974.

#### Pollutants:

The ore body to be mined lies under a plateau, or mesa, with the horizon being above the surrounding natural drainage areas and, as a result, the ground should be dry. Introduced water should be practically nil as it will be restricted to that quantity necessary for drilling only. Consequently, it is not expected that run-off water and drainage from the workings will be encountered. However, should this develop, it is planned to dispose of this by settling the solids and diverting the liquid into our current sewage lagoons and evaporating areas, thereby avoiding any contamination of receiving waters. Sewage from the proposed change house will, also, be handled by our current housing sewage facilities.

#### Miscellaneous

Enclosed are 5 prints each of the following:

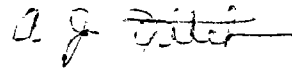
- 1) Topographic Map showing the waste dump area and development drifting.
- 2) Plan Map showing ore reserve blocks, drifting and proposed mining areas.

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By submitting the details of our mining plan in regard to this area, we believe that we are supplying you with the necessary data in order to obtain your approval to proceed with the project. However, if additional information is desired or should modifications be desired we will be pleased to hear from you relative to the matter. We understand that the operation cannot be undertaken except under an approved plan.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. J. Fitch".

A. J. FITCH

AJF:hr

Enclosures

cc: Mr. R. S. Fulton